THE TRIBUNE'S SPECIAL HOLIDAY BOOK REVIEW PAGES FOR 1917

"Life's Comedy and Tragedy Portrayed by Fiction Writers

Rex Beach has never done better tis other two assets into money, he nerisms retained, while the appeal to starts out to be a reporter. The reader sympathy is almost nil. follows his subsequent career with inof breaking into the newspaper world of breaking sieges the various editorial offices. daily applications, promises him a job at a big salary when he shall bring to any appears to big salary when he shall bring to the highest and the dead woman. Anderson starts out to do that at which elder and wiser heads have failed. This dider and wiser heads have failed. This dider and wiser heads have failed. This dider and wiser heads have failed. This stoud have failed the salar and well worked the salar and the salar and the salar and sal

sed Burns, who has tried to trick him, the licking he amply deserves, you lay sown the story with a grim hope that he will not fail to fulfi his threat.

"laughing Bill Hyde," which gives the book its name, is a good story. The rivehology of the cynical, tubercular extentic is entertaining, and by a surprise ending the ethics of the situation are saved. "With Bridges Burned," rise ending the ethics of the situation are saved. "With Bridges Burned," the saved of the usual tale of the young business man who conquers very obstacle, spurred on by a charming and resourceful wife, is developed delightfully. Mr. Heach seems to have the very ordinary material and in his characteristic swift moving manner preached into it real vitality, motion and color. In those stories where he descends through sentiment to sentimentality he is banally at his worst, and there are at least two in the book. After all, the supreme test of light fution is that it shall be interesting. No matter how perfect the style, how



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Rex Beach at His Best well balanced the plot, how skilful the character sketching, how charming the setting, if the book is dull it has failed of its purpose. By far the greater In Some Entertaining Short of its purpose. By far the greater part of these stories measure up to the

Poe Out-Poed

13 RUE DU BON DIARLE. By Arthur Sherburns Hardy Blustrated, 12mg pp. 212. The Hough-ton Milflin Company.

It is difficult to realize that the work than in some of these stories, by writer who once enthrailed us with "The Wind of Destiny" now offers us this "something new in detective in the best of which is the Cub Kethis "something new in detective
porter." Its psychology is excellent; it
stories," for, truth to tell, it greatly
provokes an adaptation of the old say
ing about things that are new and things that are true. That it is writ-Anderson, the mate of a tugboat, feels were effective in his hands; but when, Anderson, the mate of a tugboat, feels by other hands; but when, by other hands, they are carried to extremes they fail to convince the reader. Also, the style is not that of good English so much as that of a rather literal translation from French which to sustain life until he can turn which the sustain life until he can turn when the sustain life until he can turn when the carried to extreme they fail to convince the reader. Also, the style is not that of a rather literal translation from French manners and the can turn when the carried to extreme they fail to convince the reader. Also, the style is not that of a rather literal translation from French into English, with all the French manners are sustain life until he can turn when the carried to extreme they fail to convince the reader. Also, the style is not that of good English so much as that of a rather literal translation from French which to sustain life until he can turn when the can turn which is the can turn when the can turn which the can turn when the can t

Heroic Sympathy

The story of an oversensitive but Meanwhile a suicide mystery develops. heroic young man, who gets badly Meanwhile a salicide myself, the sal crippled in the war and on that acThe body of an unidentified girl lies at crippled in the war and on that acThe body of an unidentified girl lies at crippled in the war and on that acThe body of an unidentified girl lies at crippled in the war and on that acThe Body of an unidentified girl lies at crippled in the war and on that acThe body of an unidentified girl lies at crippled in the war and on that acThe Body of an unidentified girl lies at crippled in the war and on that acof an unidentified girl less to the girl who was his betrothed before he where she hailed from baffles went to the war, and tries to resist the police and reporters alike. One day marrying another girl with whom he falls in love and who falls in love with him after his injury. It is a pure, attractive, well-told story, full of humor, fanciful, growing tired of Anderson's sympathy and genuine English human



THE JOYFUL YEARS. By F. T. Wawn, 12mo, pp. 468. E. P. Dutton & Co. The years of youth are indeed joyful years, when youth is like that of Cynthia and Peter, two of the most lovable lovers we have met in current fiction.

Some of the other characters are not so pleasant, though not one is an odious Some of the other characters are not so pleasant, though not one is as odious and repulsive as it seems nowadays the fashion to make many figures of romance. The whole atmosphere of the book is sweet with the fragrance of spring flowers and luminous with sunshine, and he would indeed be grouchy who did not follow with vital sympathy the fortunes of the fond young couple. The story would have been better told, however, if it had been more briefly told—or perhaps we should say with

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George van Schaick

less prolixity; for truth to tell, with

THE HAND OF FU-MANCHU. By Sax Rohmer.

It seems that a bullet in the brain was not sufficient, to dispose of the formidable "devil doctor," and so Petrie and Nayland Smith had to take up again the long task of defending the white race against its insidious and marvel-making foe. The whole story—the whole series of Fu-Manchu stories—seems to arrive of Fu-Manchu stories—seems to the "Slaves of the "Sl and marvel-making foe. The whole story—the whole series of Fu-Manchu stories—seems to calm judgment fantastically impossible; or would if we had not through the convincing experience of recent years learned not lightly to regard anything as certainly impossible. Suppose, for example, that somebody had propounded wireless telegraphy in the days of Cotton Mather!

Beyond doubt, the story is intensely absorbing. In imagination and inven-

Beyond doubt, the story is intensely absorbing. In imagination and invention it is worthy of high rank. There is also a verisimilitude in the atmosphere and in the personality of the Chinese magician which lures us into forgetting the essential unreality and makes us feel that we are witnessing an actual drama of the mysterious and fantastic Orient. And at the end we wonder if the shipwreck really did make an end of Fu-Manghu.

Primal Passions

THE VENGEANCE OF JEFFERSON GAWME. By C. A. Seltzer. Illustrated by P. V. E. Ivory, 12mo, pp. 344. A. C. McClurg & Co.

Another tale of the cattle lands of the Southwest, where strong hands and the Southwest, where strong hands and ready pistols take the place of law and justice. It tells of the years-long quest of a brave man for the murderer of his brother, and is filled from first to last with fighting and adventure and all manner of strenuous action, graced amid its lurid fury with a golden thread of womanly love, and redeemed from utter brutality by the power of a true man to arouse in a lawless community respect for law and order. It is particularly well written and free from the faults which too often mar romances of this type. As a vivid and veracious panorama of the



by them to the Dutch and grows up to be discovered as the daughter of a French aristocrat and to marry the son

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Books of the Current Week

flavor, but which are chiefly irritating to the reader. We can see no reason for the ocusional use of "Sachema" as a quasi vocative of Sachem; of "Isleiand" for Island; of "jocolato" for chocolate; of "moeder" for mother, and of "Kapitein" for Captain, seeing that the book, while written about the Dutch, purports after all to be written in English; of such unusual forms as "stuyver" and "romantical"; and of the positively incorrect application of "who" to a raccoon. We must doubt, too, whether the use of "an" (for "if"), "e'en," "tis," and the like add to the Netherlandish tone of the book. Do Netherlandish tone of the book. Do Netherlandish tone of the book. Do "e'en," "tis," and the like add to the Netherlandish tone of the book. Do not such forms savor of English rather than Dutch?

Adventures in Phantasy

SLAVES OF THE LAMP. By George Brosson-Houard, Illustrated by Arthur E. Becher. 12mo, pp. 389. W. J. Watt & Co.

No one knows how far back in the past was written that classic, that source of unalloyed enjoyment for children and of boundless pleasure for fancifully minded grown-ups, those tales of the wonderful realm inhabited by genii and fairies and honest tailors and robber captains, magic lamps, van-ishing palaces and magic carpets trans-porting the world weary from this dull earth to the land of mystery and ro-mantic delight, the "Arabian Nights." Since then from time to time there has arisen some writer fired with a has arisen some writer fired with a desire to augment this delightful collection. The modern who has done it most charmingly and entertainingly is Stevenson, and all present day writers must stand comparison with his "New Arabian Nights."

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Of a few blemishes we must speak Like most English writers, Captain Wren bungles American dialects badly. We are quite sure that nowhere from Key

bungles American dialects hadly. We are quite sure that nowhere from Key West to Puget Sound, from Eastport to San Diego, are there people who talk as the magnificent "Bucking Broncho" is made to talk. And then, why did the author sully his pages with the repeated use of a word which is simply nasty? Victor Hugo used it once, quotient of the property of the sample nasty? Victor Hugo used it once, quoting its actual employment on one of the world's greatest historical occasions, and felt constrained to write a whole chapter in apology and defence for so doing. But Captair. Wren had no such quasi-justification for using it as he. Finally, more by way of inquiry and suggestion, we must recommend to our dictionary makers the given of some attention to Captain mend to our dictionary makers the giving of some attention to Captain Wren's amazing interpretation of the familiar term "taps," the "lights out" signal at night and the farewell at a soldier's grave. His statement of its origin seems quite incredible, but we leave it to the dictionary makers to determine its accuracy, as also to explain why, with all their zeal for cramming their ponderous tomes with as many words as possible, good, bad and indifferent, they have never yet included this word, which has been in common use for generations.



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